

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 A highly compact and portable absorbent article comprising:
2 a packaging; and
3 an absorbent article reconfigurable from a normal condition to a compressed condition;
4 said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when said
5 absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and
6 said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed
7 condition.

1 2. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one of said dimensions
2 is reduced by at least 30% when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition.

1 3. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article occupies a
2 volume of space;
3 said volume of space being reduced by at least about 30% when said absorbent article is
4 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition.

1 4. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said packaging is configured to
2 retain at negative pressure said absorbent article when compressed.

1 5. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is
2 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by negative pressure.

1 6. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is
2 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by physical force.

1 7. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is
2 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by rolling.

1 8. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is
2 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by folding.

1 ~~Sub DI~~ 9. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is a diaper.

1 10. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is a sanitary
2 napkin.

1 ~~Sub DI~~ 11. A portable set of compact absorbent articles, said set comprising:
2 a carrier including a plurality of compartments; and
3 a plurality of individually packaged absorbent articles respectively received within said
4 plurality of compartments, each of said absorbent articles including:
5 a packaging; and
6 an absorbent article reconfigurable from a normal condition to a compressed
7 condition;
8 said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when
9 said absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and
10 said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed
11 condition.

1 12. A set as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of said absorbent articles is vacuumed
2 sealed within said packaging at negative pressure.

1 13. A set of compact absorbent articles, said set comprising:
2 a plurality of absorbent articles each reconfigurable from a normal condition to a
3 compressed condition;
4 each of said absorbent articles having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced
5 when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and
6 said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed
7 condition; and

8 packaging including a plurality of compartments each for receiving one of said absorbent
9 articles in said compressed condition.

1 14. A set as claimed in claim 13 wherein said packaging includes release seams disposed
2 between said compartments.

1 15. A set as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent articles are vacuumed sealed at
2 negative pressure in said packaging.

1 *sub 16* 16. A method for packaging absorbent articles so that the absorbent articles are compact
2 and portable, said method comprising the steps of:

3 providing an absorbent article, the absorbent article occupying a volume of space in three
4 dimensions;

5 reconfiguring the absorbent article such that the volume of space is reduced in at least one
6 of the dimensions;

7 retaining the absorbent article when reconfigured.

1 17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step comprises the step
2 of:

3 rolling the absorbent article.

1 18. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step comprises the step
2 of:

3 folding the absorbent article.

1 *sub 19* 19. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said retaining step comprises the step of:
2 packaging the reconfigured absorbent article at negative pressure.

1 20. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said providing step comprises the step of
2 providing a disposable diaper.

add A3 *add C3*
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